

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the Cross Reference to Related Application on page 2, paragraph [0001] with the following:

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

This application is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application No. 10/678,539 filed October 3, 2003, ~~currently pending~~ now U.S. Patent No. 6,821,154.

Please add the following to Brief Description of the Drawings, page 2.

FIG. 3 depicts a view of the connector showing the increased wall thickness near the insertion opening.

Please replace paragraph [0006] page 3 with the following:

The electrical casing 16, in the relaxed state, is shorter than the length of its contents. The elastic casing 16 contains at least one insertion opening 18 (dashed line) that provides access through the wall of the casing 16 and into the inside of the hollow boot connector 1, where the electrical device 2 is removably inserted. Although not evident in the figure, the edge of insertion opening 18 is shown as a single dashed line to indicate that said edge is fully rounded to reduce stress concentration. Further, ~~while not explicitly shown in the figure~~ as shown in FIG. 3, the wall thickness of casing 16 is progressively thickened 59 proximate the edge of insertion opening 18 in order to distribute tension stress in the edge over a larger area, and to insure that the peripheral distribution of axial compressive force is uniform, thereby eliminating any tendency to tilt the encased devices. It is known to the inventors and within the scope of the instant invention, but not illustrated herein, that a plurality of openings 18 may be present in elastic casing 16 such that there are, in essence, a plurality of bands or straps formed by the plurality of openings 18. The electrical device 2 may either be inserted before

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being placed into service, or during enablement for service, or as a replacement for a prior device during actual service. The connector 1 enables positive and rapid insertion of the electrical device 2 under difficult conditions, such as in seawater or in living tissue during surgery.